



Atty. Dkt. No 043738-0103

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shinsaku TAKAOKA
Title: BACILLUS NATTO CULTURE EXTRACT
Appl. No.: 10/761,430
Filing Date: 01/22/2004
Examiner: Lilling
Art Unit: 1651

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant provides herein below comments on the Examiner's Statement of Reasons For Allowance accompanying the Notice of Allowance issued September 14, 2005. These comments are submitted with the issue fee and publication fee payment.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that the claims are free of the prior art. To the extent the Examiner may have focused on any one particular aspect of the claimed invention, Applicant emphasizes that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as a whole.

That is, the prior art does not teach or suggest a method of administering nattokinase to a patient restricting his or her intake of vitamin K2 or for whom vitamin K2 is contraindicated, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract comprising nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weight (as recited in allowed claim 6), or a method of administering nattokinase to a patient at risk of or suffering from thrombogenesis, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract comprising nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weighted (as recited in allowed claim 16), or a method of administering nattokinase to a patient in need thereof, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising a *Bacillus natto* culture extract obtained from a chitosan-treated

Bacillus natto culture broth that comprises nattokinase and 1 µg or less of Vitamin K2/g dry weight and that is prepared by a process comprising (i) culturing *Bacillus natto* in a liquid medium to produce a cultured medium comprising nattokinase and vitamin K2 and (ii) treating the cultured medium with chitosan to substantially remove vitamin K2 therefrom while retaining other nutrients (as recited in allowed claim 27).

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 14, 2005

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